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Concluding Paragraph Connection Decade Paper

Sequential Development 19 November 2009

Point of View

Thesis Statement

When the World Went to War

I know that the 1940s were a time of major changes in military advancements. I know this was largely due to the conflict that took the entire world by storm. I have previous experience with this topic because I have done many speeches and reports based on it. I would describe this topic as a very interesting and important topic when it comes to world history, and American history. It was a war that engulfed the entire world and forced some nations to either evolve military tactics. This topic is important to me because I enjoy history, and I also enjoy military history.

This war, featured the Germans as the main agressors, but they had help from the Japanese, and the Italians. They were called the Axis Powers. They all had dreams of world domination as they started to carve up the world as early as 1933 with the Japanese invasion of China. The Germans and Italians went to war as early as 1939 when Germany took over Austria and Poland, and Italy attacked North Africa. The Allies consisted of pretty much everyone else. The countries in the forefront were France, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

At the beginning of the War, it seemed like no one could stop the Germans. They fought with Blitzkrieg tactics. The term translates to lightning war. The Germans would concentrate an all mechanized force of tanks and infantry on the enemy center, destroy it, and then once the enemy army was in shambles they would destroy the flanks in succession. The armies they destroyed with these tactics were from Poland, France, and some of the Scandinavian countries. They used these tactics in northern Africa aslo. The main reason for the success of the German armies was the fact that no one else was even close to being caught up in military technology. The German Tanks, consisting of Panzers and Tiger tanks . The German tanks were unrivaled by any in the world in terms of armor, and firepower(The only two terms that mattered). The German Machine guns consisting of the MG42 and the FG42, were some of the fastest, most powerful machine guns in the world. The Germans were truly ahead of the rest of the world when it came to military technology.

The Germans had a strong force of air power also. They would use massed air bombardments in order to soften enemy defenses and destroy enemy communications . These things would allow the blitzkrieg to move more rapidly and achieve large decisive victories before their enemies could assemble themselves for a valid defense. Their main forces consisted of high level 4 engine bombers and single engine dive bombers called Jukas.

The Germans were halted only by the English Channel and an epic fight from the Royal Air Force of Great Britain. The British used their spitfires to shoot down a large portion of enemy aircraft and ultimately win the Battle of Britain.

The Germans had finally met their match when the Americans entered the fight .   
The USA had newly renovated its military in order to survive the coming fight. They were the first country to use semi automatic rifles as a standard for regular foot soldiers. The M1 Garand was far superior to any other standard issue rifle on the field . This gave the Americans a strong advantage. What the Germans had in firepower and armor with their tanks, the Americans made up for it with sheer numbers of theirs. The main battle tank of the USA was the Sherman

. The Americans used better weapons and a stronger supply of foot soldiers to win the battle on the western front.

The Russians fought the Germans in the East. They had a strong tank in the T34 battletank but for the most part they had terrible weaponry. They made up for that by sheer numbers. When the battle on the eastern front reached its peak, there were about 1.4 million Russian soldiers against 400,000 Germans. And when the Russians took Berlin, It was 1 million Russians against 40,000 German soldiers, and 10,000 militia from Berlin itself.

Most armies on this newly modern battlefield used a new type of foot soldier to their advantage. The paratrooper made his way onto the field for the first time in WWII. The Germans and the Americans used them the most as they dropped them behind enemy lines to cuase confusion and take out special targets such as communcation posts and bridges of retreat for the enemy.

I have realized that world war 2 marked a serious change in military warfare. The distances that people fought from were far greater than in any other war up until that point. All armies across the globe created new forms of warfare and weaponry to attack and defend with. I chose this topic to show that without World War 2 the United states would have never become a serious world power. This topic means a lot to me because I really enjoy world history, American history, and the history of battles across the globe across all time.